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SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO  
COMMENTS BY ODIHR DIRECTOR LENARCIC ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
UZBEKISTAN

11. (U) Post is authorized to present the following statement  
at the September 17 Permanent Council meeting in Vienna.

Begin text:

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

The United States is pleased to take note of the recent  
comments by the distinguished Director of ODIHR Ambassador  
Janez Lenarcic on the forward movement made by Uzbekistan and  
the increased cooperation between the Government of  
Uzbekistan and ODIHR in the area of human rights.

The efforts to improve detention conditions, the release of  
some human rights activists, and the extension of the  
International Committee of the Red Crescent program of prison  
visits were all particularly well received. We urge  
Uzbekistan to continue looking to ODIHR for guidance in areas  
such as enhancing legislation on human rights, fighting  
trafficking in persons and raising public awareness of human  
rights.

We also take this opportunity to urge Uzbekistan to  
capitalize on this increased cooperation and ensure full  
compliance with the requirements of due process in the appeal  
hearing for journalist Dilmurod Sayyid.

We are confident that cooperation between Uzbekistan and  
ODIHR will continue, especially in light of the upcoming  
December 27th elections, for which we expect ODIHR to offer  
assistance and to deploy an observation mission.

Thank you Madame Chairwoman.  
CLINTON